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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: September 14, 1998
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #51
RE: Clarification to item #1, [Information Update #50](#); **WARNING: Dimethyl mercury is highly poisonous! Use methyl mercury chloride as a spiking compound.**
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 and ask for Technical Resources and Training. Thank You.

1. In the [Information Update #50](#) (dated August 21, 1998), we specified a requirement of initial spiking with methyl mercury to prove equivalency for using "Hot Block Digestor" for the analysis of mercury in various media.

Please use **methyl mercury chloride** as a spiking material, Dimethyl mercury is not soluble in water. All mercuric compounds are highly toxic. Use appropriate safety precautions while handling.

EPA provided the following recommendation for the preparation of the spiking solution. Dissolve methyl mercury chloride in 5% nitric acid (1 gram mercury standard + some deionized water + 50 mls of nitric acid. Bring it to 1 liter in deionized water).

2. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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